

The San Francisco Call

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WANT HANDCUFFS FOR THE SCHOOL MASTER

LESLIE M. SHAW, former secretary of the treasury, repudiates the interview printed in the Chicago Tribune by which he was made to say that he was traveling in the middle west to create an organization whose first law should be "anybody to beat Taft." Mr. Shaw declares with effusion that he is an enthusiastic admirer of Roosevelt, but his admiration is chiefly in the past tense. He explains:

I approve the magnificent work of the Roosevelt administration, but I believe that work has been done—it is finished. To elect a man primarily pledged to a continuance of those policies would be harmful. I don't believe it can be done, anyway. The man who sets a good example in his family by whipping a boy and then says: "Tomorrow I'll lick two, and the next day I'll lick three," makes a mistake and disrupts the family. It won't do.

This is very picturesque and delightful. It almost has a flavor of the cherry tree episode and the little hatchet. But let us suppose that the boy refuses to be good or goes on cutting down cherry trees or stealing apples as soon as the fear of the rod is removed. Let us suppose, for instance, that the boy's name is Harriman.

The Harriman boy was threatened with a whipping and he thereupon raised his hand to heaven and swore that never again would rebates be given on any of his railroads. Yet his books show that his men have been giving rebates by wholesale on California business, notwithstanding Mr. Harriman's denials and promises to be good.

Commenting on the results of Commissioner Lane's inquiry into Southern Pacific rebates the Springfield Republican remarks:

There is just one encouraging fact to be noted in these findings of the commissioner, supposing them to be true. The railroad company seems to have had some fear of the national law and the administration of it, and if it did not have any fear of the California law and authorities. And the conclusion to be drawn from this apparent fact evidently is that only as the rebate law is vigorously enforced by prosecutions and by punishments which will be keenly felt will the railroads and powerful shippers pay any attention to it.

If punishment is limited to fines they must be heavy enough to cut to the quick in corporation ownership, and until punishment by imprisonment has been restored and given salutary application to those really responsible for corporation conduct we shall simply be giving encouragement to the rebate practice by crying "confiscation" when a fine is imposed heavy enough to be felt keenly by the ownership of offending corporations.

There is scarcely a railroad man of any importance who has not in the last five years protested, like Harriman, that the practice of rebating is extinct, and yet officials are constantly found resorting to this expedient when they believe they can escape detection. They need the fear of the rod to keep them honest. Mr. Shaw and others like him want a president who will lock up the rod and handcuff the school master.

SENATOR NIXON'S ENDOWMENT

SENATOR NIXON of Nevada is reported to have undertaken to build a \$40,000 theater in Winnemucca. If the impetuously curious should inquire, "Why Winnemucca?" the answer is believed to be that the senator's unhappy memories of past boredom in that town have inspired him to an act combining all three virtues of faith, hope and charity. The truth is that Winnemucca is a very small improvement on out of doors in Nevada.

But if Senator Nixon builds a \$40,000 theater in Winnemucca he ought surely to provide a \$40,000 company to complete the outfit. There are few monuments to utility more melancholy than the village "grand opera house," where opera was never known.

We fear that the senator's faith is misplaced, that his hopes will be blasted and that his charity is ill directed. But if he or some other benefactor of great wealth should undertake to endow a theater of the highest class in some of the big cities, that would supply an experiment in sociology and several other things of much value to the inquiring mind, as well as entertainment for gentle and simple. Mr. Percy Mackaye, a dramatist of greater learning than acceptance, has this to say about the need for an endowed theater:

In what civic club—in what pulpit—in what benevolent society—in what organization of leading citizens—have we heard rumors of zeal to investigate this scandal? What chemist experts have tested the diluted poisons which so often distil from those ubiquitous taprooms—our theaters? What mass meetings of educators have been called to renovate and cleanse those sources of our public taste and mentality? You know the answer. These things are ignored—universally ignored. Yet, until these things shall be realized, until we as a people shall rouse ourselves to investigate and understand the ideal nature of the playhouse—its true function in the community and the potential grandeur of that function in transfusing our common life with agencies of higher public welfare—then to compare with that the bathos and folly of existing conditions, let not the critical and hopeful minority ask or expect a vital renaissance of our drama. For I repeat—and it is well to repeat—that deeper than the limiting influences of stage craft and theatrical business upon the form and scope of our plays is the limiting influence of the public attitude toward the whole institution of the theater upon dramatic art itself.

Let us not be deceived by names. In theatrical amusement we are concerned with public happiness. Real happiness means education; real education means happiness. And in regard to our drama there can be no sounder, no more enlightening conviction than this truth; that by whatever name we choose to call it, the influence of our theaters is a colossal—a national influence in forming the taste, the moral will, the mental capacity of our people. Whether we know it or not, our theaters are supplied—in passion, imagination and delight—with means of appeal far more potent than any possessed by our schools and colleges; and whether we like it or not, night after night, year after year, our theaters are educating our people by the millions and tens of millions. The question is: Shall they educate those millions right or wrong?

Let us not get excited, but if we could put Mr. Mackaye's enthusiasm at work on Senator Nixon's money there might be some astonishing results. If it should prove that the endowed theater remained empty and unappreciated in its effort to elevate and instruct, that might be proof that Mr. Mackaye and others like him are talking a deal of nonsense. It is like the ever recurring proposition of an endowed newspaper. A newspaper that people will not read and a theater that

Dargie's Silence Is Golden for Himself, but Exceedingly Expensive for the Tax Payers

Chapter XXI of the Plunderer's Record



Dargie of the Oakland Tribune

The worst thing that ever happened to Oakland and Alameda county was William E. Dargie.

If Dargie had never controlled a newspaper Oakland and Alameda county might have endured him indefinitely; he would have been a rascal without means to make rascality effective or profitable—a burglar without tools. Through his newspaper, the Oakland Tribune, Dargie became at once and has ever since been the evil genius of his community.

The Call has carefully and painstakingly investigated the public record of Dargie. Today it continues the publication of that record. This publication will be kept up from time to time until Dargie and his Tribune are generally known for what they really are—the man as the advocate and associate in villainy and in profit of the political and civic corrupters of Alameda county, and his newspaper as the organ of graft and the tool and weapon of public plunderers.

For Thirty Years Oakland Sphinx Has Drawn Veil Over Looting of County Treasury

IT will be found by the grand jury now investigating the fiscal and administrative conditions of the Alameda county government that all graft, political or economic, legal or illegal, lawful or criminal, leads directly to or emanates from the Oakland Tribune. It is called Dargielism, because W. E. Dargie, who has declared himself "president" of the Oakland Tribune publishing company, is either the inspiration of this graft, the instrument and tool of the grafters, or the beneficiary of the graft.

Dargie has capitalized silence as an asset of this graft. The newspaper which he controls is never an advocate of measures that will inure to the benefit of the community. If corporate, political or personal interests inimical to the common weal would be injured by exposure or discussion of the questions involved, the Oakland Tribune has preserved a golden silence for 30 years concerning the "water front grab" by the Southern Pacific railroad corporation; it has never criticized the corporation's political control of Alameda county affairs; it has never demanded a full and proportionate assessment of the corporation's property within the jurisdiction of the county assessor. Consequently there has not been occasion for many years for the presence of Black Ryan, the Southern Pacific's fiscal agent, at the meetings of the board of equalization.

That Dargie has received ample compensation for this silence and for his utter indifference to the interests of the tax payers of the county, upon whom he depends partially for support, is beyond question. He was a familiar and constant vassal in waiting in the antechamber of Creed Hammond when that disbursing agent of the corporation's corruption fund was alive and perilously active; he "knew W. W. Stow by the back"; he was one of the most persistent assailants of W. H. Mills when that astute diplomat was the "buffer" between the corruption fund and a greedily vengeful press; and now he is a frequent visitor, as intimated by his own testimony in the libel suit pending against him, to the offices of the railroad almshouse.

In the record subscribed to by himself that it was immediately subsequent to a visit to the office of Jere Burke that he met Patrick Calhoun, just previous to the date on which the Oakland Tribune switched from its attitude of editorial favor to the graft prosecution and became a virulent opponent of every effort to punish San Francisco's corruptionists.

DARGIE'S CORPORATION SERVICE

Silence has also been Dargie's policy in regard to the oppressions of the Contra Costa water company. He has never permitted any expression of disfavor toward that corporation in the columns of the Tribune, however flagrant the exactions of the company or however palpable the corrupting influences exerted by the company upon the rate fixing power of the Oakland city government. On the contrary, on one memorable occasion, when the majority of the city council seemed bent on compelling the water corporation to deal fairly with the water rate payers, Dargie sent his "managing editor" to each councilman for an "interview" in which these simple minded legislators were cunningly inveigled into expressions of personal opinion of the company that were afterward used as evidence of antagonism and prejudice. The "interviews" were published in the Tribune as "news," preliminary to their use by the attorneys for the corporation. In the suit tried before Judge Hart as evidence that the rates fixed by the council were unjust by reason of the "personal prejudice" therein manifested. It was an ingenious trick and much beyond the intriguing capacity of Dargie himself, the close observer of Oakland affairs always crediting Frank Moffitt with its inspiration. Moffitt at that time had charge of the water company's "council business" and Dargie was at the Moffitt heel in all mat-

ters, requiring Tribune publicity on behalf of the corporation's interests.

DARGIE'S RETICENCE IS COSTLY

Silence has been the Dargie policy in all matters relating to the administration of county affairs and for the same purpose that imposes silence in relation to the tyranny of the Southern Pacific and the oppression of the Contra Costa water company. The county treasury of Alameda county is a fat source of income to Dargie. It is estimated that 10 cents of the tax upon the property owners of the county goes to Dargie—it may be more or it may be slightly less as the exigencies of the general graft upon the treasury may dictate. In no manner has the Oakland Tribune ever attempted to protect those property owners and tax payers upon whom it partially depends for support against the county tax eaters.

It has never uttered one word of protest against the diversion of the money intended for the completion of the scenic boulevard, because part of that money was used for the payment of Dargie's own claims against the treasury; it has never even hinted that the tax payers were being robbed in the cost of the Contra Costa tunnel scheme, whereby the lowest bid of \$28,000 for driving the tunnel was rejected and the contract awarded on a "day's labor" basis at a cost of more than \$80,000; it has never even hinted that a jail originally estimated to cost the county \$250,000, which will probably cost \$300,000 before the present administration of county affairs gets through with it, was a useless appendage, an extravagant luxury or an exorbitant tax upon the revenue of the county.

HOW THE TRICKS ARE TURNED

In no instance has Dargie used the Oakland Tribune as a vehicle for the advancement of the material interests of the community from which he derives a portion of his sustenance. In no instance has he favored the interests of the tax payers and property owners as against the grafters and corporation corruptionists. His personal interests have invariably been linked and closely interwoven with those of the grafters and corruptionists.

At the present time he enjoys a virtual monopoly of the county printing, the book binding contracts and such advertising as can be ordered by the supervisors and other county officials. This monopoly is preserved, as the grand jury will find, by a shrewdly conceived system of "resolutions" and "resolutions" devised to avoid the legal necessity of advertising for bids. Moreover, as the Oakland Tribune is the head center of all the printing graft in Alameda county, the county press is content to abide by this arrangement in consideration of an occasional sop generously overlooked by the big dog.

The supervisors have effectually cut off outside competition by a resolution providing that bids for all supplies shall be confined to persons doing business in Alameda county—an excellent protective measure for the industries of Alameda county, even if it is a somewhat expensive method for the tax payers; but also a measure of no avail whatever if the supervisors, for any reason sufficient for themselves, see fit to rescind the resolution in particular instances, as it is alleged they have recently done in the matter of food supplies to the county infirmary. And it is also plain to the most ordinary understanding that if these supervisors can rescind a resolution of this kind in one instance to invite lower bids from the outside, they can do so in any other.

Consequently if they can be convinced that Dargie is charging them monopoly rates for printing and other supplies it is their duty to "rescind" that resolution as far as it inures to an exorbitant profit for Dargie and an extortionate burden upon the tax payers. What is sauce for the infirmary goose is sauce for the Dargie hander. The grand jury need only follow the Dargie "leads" to unearth the bulk of the graft that is being practiced on the tax payers and property owners of Alameda county. Most of it leads into the office of the Oakland Tribune or is sourced in that fountain of iniquity.

draws no house are dead, no matter how bountifully endowed; but if they earn popular favor they need no endowment.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Wu brought his interrogation point with him.

New York is to have the biggest restaurant in the world. No one is optimistic enough to doubt that the prices will be in proportion.

Twenty-two charges are made in a petition for the removal of District Attorney Jerome of New York. Twenty-three would have been more appropriate.

The authorities at Stanford hope to reverse the usual order of things and catch the bogie man.

There are five Saturdays in February this year, a combination that will not occur again until 1936. Hardly worth waiting all that time for.

For the first time in the history of the United States there's a billion in the treasury. Pretty good chip for Uncle Sam to carry on his shoulder.

Answers to Queries

ALASKA—L. B. Oakland, Cal. How did Russia become possessed of Alaska?

The Russians held Alaska by the right of Berling's discovery in 1741, and the subsequent settlement of the territory. In 1799, Paul VIII granted the land to the Russo-American fur company and the charter of the organization was renewed in 1829. It expired in 1863 and in 1867 Alaska was sold to the United States for \$7,200,000.

HARMONICA—A. Y. R. Oakland, Cal. Who invented the musical instrument known as the harmonica?

It is not known who invented the harmonica. Reed instruments embodying the principles of the present month organ, commonly called harmonica, were in use in China, Germany and Holland in very early times. The original harmonica consisted of drinking glasses played with moistened fingers. This was in 1750, when an Irishman named Packeridge played upon glasses, the pitch of which was

regulated by the amount of water in each. In 1762 Benjamin Franklin improved on this by making the glasses revolve on a spindle and fixing the pitch by the size of the glass. He adopted a different color for each note in the scale. When he finished his invention he turned it over to Miss Davis, a relative, who in 1765 performed upon it in Paris, France, Vienna and all the large cities of Germany. Franklin's voice was called Armonica.

VOICE CULTURE—H. K. City. Are there any male teachers of singing in San Francisco, and are there any books on voice culture? Yes; both. Look in the city directory, classified portion, for the one, and in a book store for the other.

PUGILIST—Subscriber, City. Did Jack Johnson, who fought Flynn in this city, ever fight in this city before? Yes; he lost to Marvin Hart in 1905, March 23.

By The Call's Jester

THE MONITORY HAND

"Don't think that I'll withdraw my hand."

Said Roosevelt to the teachers;

"These predatory creatures,

This law defying, pirate band

Deserve to be still further tanned."

All hail the hand that, held on high,

Keeps people busy guessing

If spanking or a blessing

To those means to next apply

Its tows within the public eye.

All hail the hand that smartly spansk

The people who deserve it!

No unguished yell can swerve it

From causing pain within the ranks

Of malefactors prone to pranks.

Another year there is in sight

Of Teddy and his whacking

With no material lacking

Through which to send a howl of fright

By exercising his good right.

UNPROFITABLE LAPSE

Beggar—Please, sir, would you give 10 cents to a poor deaf and dumb man? Pedestrian—Well, of all the nerve— Beggar—Confound it, my memory's getting worse every day. That's two I've lost by forgetting that I'm blind and my partner's deaf and dumb.

UNNECESSARY

"Who's to give the bride away?" "Nobody; it's not necessary; she was given away when she had to tell her age at the license office."

W. J. W.

Concerning February Twenty-ninth and Its Use in the Adjustment of Time

By Rose O'Halloran

THIS current twelvemonth, 1908, being leap year, is farther from representing the time of a true revolution of the earth round the sun than the average year of 365 days. Its peculiar function is corrective. The three preceding years, when regarded as ended, each lacked 5 hours 48 minutes and 47 seconds of the period required for a revolution, measured from the equinoctial points, and lacked 6 hours 9 minutes and 9 seconds of a revolution measured by the stars. This latter, 20 minutes 23 seconds longer than the former, corresponds with a complete journey of our planet round the sun. One is known as the equinoctial year; the other as the sidereal year. The difference between them is due to a slow change in the direction of the earth's axis causing precession of the equinoctial points, where the sun seems to cross the celestial equator, and as the changing seasons—of such importance to mankind—depend on these apparent motions of the sun, the equinoctial year is preferred as meeting general requirements.

Through the resourceful intellect of Julius Caesar every fourth year was utilized for an equalizing process which dates back as far as 45 B. C. At the end of four years of 365 days each the earth would be within about 1,500,000 miles of the point of its orbit that it held at the beginning of the first year and would require 23 1/4 hours more to return to that point. One day added to the fourth year bridged the accumulated deficiencies simply and conveniently.

It was, however, an overleap, creating error in the opposite direction equal to 44 minutes 52 seconds. As a result in the lapse of 16 centuries the sun was in the vernal equinox as early as March 11 instead of the 21st of that month. This brought forth the radical expedient introduced by Pope Gregory XIII of curtailing the number of days in October of 1582 by giving to the fifth day of the month the date of 15th. To insure future accuracy he also prearranged that leap years be omitted at the end of centuries not divisible by the number four. This counteracts overcorrection so closely that the circling earth and the flow of the years keep pace without one day's difference for over 3,000 years.

The Smart Set

THE engagement of Miss Mary Greenleaf of Charlestown, Mass., and the Rev. George Maxwell of Christ church, Sausalito, was informally announced at the wedding of Miss Mabel Mason and John Bishop a week ago and is proving of much interest to the smart set of the little town. Miss Greenleaf is a member of one of Boston's most prominent families, and is reported to be both a clever and a charming woman. She is entirely a stranger to California, but has many connections here, among whom are General Charles R. Greenleaf of Berkeley and Dr. Henry S. Greenleaf, now stationed here. She will leave Charlestown in about three weeks, and will be General Greenleaf's guest until her marriage, which is to take place in the third week of February. The wedding will be a very quiet one, owing to the recent death of Miss Greenleaf's mother, whose home she was through many years of invalidism. Miss Greenleaf will be accompanied from the east by her sister, Miss Anne Greenleaf, who will make her home here for some time.

Mr. Maxwell has been in charge of the Sausalito parish for several years and has won the respect and affection of all his parishioners. He and his wife, Mrs. Maxwell, who is a prominent member of the church, will take possession of the charming little cottage that adjoins the church.

Another engagement of interest is that of Miss Grace Irene Gwin and Fred Howard Pierson, both of whom are well known to the social set here. The understanding between them has been recognized by their friends for a long time, although no formal announcement of their engagement has been made. The wedding, which will be a quiet, home affair, will take place on Monday evening, March 9, in the home of the groom's brother, Frank Pierson, 1727 Vallejo street. A supper will follow the ceremony and Mr. Pierson and his bride will sail a day or two later for Japan, where their honeymoon will be spent. Miss Gwin is a granddaughter of Judge Harrison Gwin of Yolo county, and a daughter of Oliver M. Gwin, who is a prominent resident of Woodland. Mr. Pierson is a son of the late well known attorney and Mrs. William M. Pierson and is president of the Pierson-Roeding company of this city. He is a member of several of the large clubs, and popular in club and social circles.

The very youngest set is deeply interested in the dance which will take place in St. Raphael's hall, San Rafael, this evening, with the members of La Jeunesse as hostesses. The guests of honor will be the boys from Hitchcock academy and the Kamalapa academy, a number of boys who have attended neither school have also been asked and the gathering will be representative of almost all the prominent Ross valley and San Rafael families. Some of the names interested are Mrs. A. V. Foster, Mrs. Charles Foster, Mrs. George Roe, Mrs. R. J. Davis, Mrs. Joseph Hooper and Mrs. Clinton Jones. Among those who will be present tonight are Miss Minna Van Bergen, Miss Mary Louise Foster, Mrs. R. J. Roe, Miss Helen Jones, Miss Dolly MacGavin, Miss Edith Lowe, Miss Ernestine St. Goar, Miss Edith von Schroeder, Miss Louisiana Foster, Miss Martha Foster, Miss Elizabeth Whittell, Miss Elsie Hinz, Miss Gertrude Hinz, Miss Katherine Hooper, Miss Constance Davis, Miss Dorothy Bridge, Miss Elizabeth Bridge, Miss Dorothy Draper, Miss Ruth Reynolds and Miss Margaret Moses.

Contract Labor in Canada

Except as regards labor recruited in the United States there are no provisions in the Canadian law forbidding employers to import contract labor, and until the recent changes made in the regulations under the Canadian Immigration act of 1905, those due to the existing industrial depression, it was not necessary that immigrants, to be permitted to land, should be possessed of money sufficient to tide them over a few weeks. As a result of the change in the regulations immigrants must now possess \$10 in cash or their equivalent before they are permitted to land, but this rule is limited to February 1, from which date until April 1 immigrants must possess \$25. There are many thousands of immigrants in London to send out contract laborers during the present winter months.

The campaign of the Canadian manufacturers' association to bring in contract laborers has been vigorously assailed in the house of commons at Ottawa and in many of the industrial centers. The Canadian trades union congress sent a representative to London to oppose the proposed factory workers to pay no heed to the advertisements issued by the Canadian manufacturers' bureau in London, stating that conditions in Canada were misrepresented. There are many thousands of unemployed in Canada at this time and as late as December 17 advertisements appeared in British newspapers in which it was stated that manufacturers in Canada in all trades were crying out for skilled labor. Mr. Oliver, the Canadian minister of the interior, submitted this advertisement to the Canadian house of commons the third week in January, and two days later, when the executive board of the Canadian manufacturers' association met, it decided to close its labor bureau in London.—Consular Report.

JAPANESE OWNERSHIP BEST

When the South Manchurian railway was operated by the Russians it received a subsidy from St. Petersburg of 15,000,000 rubles yearly to make ends meet. Now, in Japanese hands, it is earning 30 per cent over operating expenses.—Kansas City Journal.

Conditions in California

The California Promotion committee wired to its eastern bureau yesterday as follows: California temperatures for the last 24 hours: Eureka.....Minimum 40.....Maximum 52 San Francisco.....Minimum 45.....Maximum 54 San Diego.....Minimum 52.....Maximum 58 Customs receipts at San Francisco for the last month, January 29 to February 29, inclusive, \$538,599.73.

There is a good opening for a cannery at Escondido, San Diego county. Many new enterprises are being launched in Stanislaus county, around Modesto, the city seat. A cannery is to be built in this county. A packing house will be built in connection with the cannery. Much acreage has been added during the last two years to the producing area of onions, cantaloupes, water melons and sweet potatoes.

Work is progressing on the rehabilitation of the Emporium building in Market street near Fifth, San Francisco; the cost of this will reach \$600,000. When completed the building will rank class A. Sandstone is to constitute the facing.